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Spring 2002

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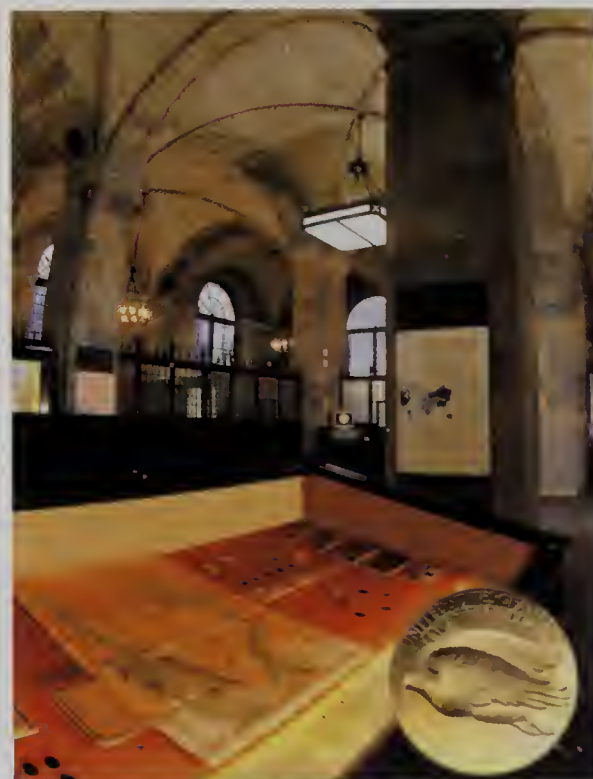
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AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

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Executive Editor
Ute Wartenberg
Executive Director, ANS

Publisher
Pamala Plummer-Wright
Director of Development and Public
Programs, ANS

Associate Editor
Stacy Kramer

Art Director
Terri Czezko

Contributing Staff
Michael Bates
Barbara Bonous-Smit
Francis Campbell
Sebastian Heath
Robert Hoge
Jennifer Mazurkie
Elena Stolyarik
Peter van Alfen

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155th. Street and Broadway
New York, NY 10032
Telephone: 212-234-3130
Fax: 212-234-3661
www.numismatics.org

Dear ANS Member,

It is with great excitement that I introduce to you the ANS' new magazine. In these pages you will find information about recent events, past history, ongoing activities, and future plans. In this way, the magazine is a continuation of the newsletter that it replaces. I also hope that you find its increased length and wider range of topics a welcome improvement over its predecessor. This first volume is, of course, just a beginning and we look forward to participation by the membership in the form of contributed articles, letters to the editor, or even by placing an advertisement. We are grateful for the enthusiastic response we have received to date as the proceeds from this publication help fund the other important activities of the Society.

The past few months have been filled with exciting developments and a renewed commitment to our ongoing plans. It is rare for an institution so specialized as the ANS to be caught up in the flow of history but that certainly occurred on Sept. 11. As you know, our new building at 140 William St. is just a few blocks from Ground Zero, as is the New York branch of the Federal Reserve Bank. We are ever mindful of how small our role in this greater tragedy has been, but I remain proud that last Jan. 16 we opened. "Drachmas, Doubloons and Dollars: A History of Money" in the Bank's renovated exhibition space. Likewise, our commitment to move to New York's financial district remains firm.

As this magazine goes to press, the staff is preparing for our April 15th dinner honoring William McDonough, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, and Rosemary Lazenby, the bank's archivist. Each played an indispensable role in the success of

"Drachmas, Doubloons, and Dollars."

President McDonough was unstinting in his support and Ms. Lazenby's personal commitment to the project was remarkable to behold. Over 200 people are visiting the gallery daily, so there is no doubt that the efforts of both institutions are being well rewarded.

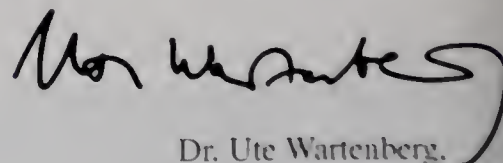
Our everyday activities continue apace. Members recently received Volume 12 of the American Journal of Numismatics. Numismatic Literature 144, almost 200 pages in length, will go to the printer next week.

The Colonial Newsletter is now being edited by Gary Trudgen and continues to attract a large readership. Our appeal for donations towards the production costs of CNL was very successful and we are indebted to all donors, particularly ANS Member Roger Siboni.

The cabinets continue to be used by collectors and scholars from around the world and new acquisitions are adding to the collection at a steady pace. None of this could happen without the dedication of the Society's staff, including our new curators, Peter van Alfen, and Robert Hoge.

This letter, then, is a snapshot of your Society at work. It is appropriate at this new beginning to count our current successes and I hope you will join us in building new ones.

With best regards,



Dr. Ute Wartenberg,
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The American Numismatic Society announces:

The Heritage of Sasanian Iran: Dinars, Drahms and Coppers of the Late Sasanian and Early Muslim Periods Co-sponsored with the Center for Iranian Studies and the Middle East Institute at Columbia University and Middle East Medievalists.

The event will be held at Columbia University in New York City, Saturday and Sunday, June 8-9, 2002. Late Sasanian coins and their subsequent Muslim, Dabuyid and Hunnic imitations formed an important part of the monetary systems of late Classical and early medieval Iran. Late Sasanian coins became the pre-eminent silver coinage in the Near East during this period. The early Muslims in Iran and dynasts of northern and eastern Iran later copied the main outlines of these coins while creating distinct provincial and regional coinages. The coins today represent documents of social, political and economic life at a time of great cultural efflorescence as well as social and political change.

The conference invites papers treating any aspect of the Late Sasanian and early Muslim coins of Iran as artifacts of civilization and culture.

The topics of papers may be numismatic, historical or art historical. They may examine problems in the reading and interpretation of the Pahlavi and Arabic legends or the iconography, the representation of sovereignty, Zoroastrianism and Islam, or the production, use and regulation of these coinages.

The conference will also feature a workshop in reading the Pahlavi legends on these coins and a roundtable for the discussion of issues of common interest and coins if anyone wishes to bring them in. Abstracts/queries about further information and registration should be sent by e-mail to Dr. Stuart D. Sears at sears@aucegypt.edu or Dr. Michael L. Bates at bates@amnum-soc.org or by mail to: Dr. Stuart D. Sears, The American University in Cairo, Department of Arabic Studies, Box 2511, Cairo, Egypt 11511. Communications by E-mail are preferred.

American Numismatic Society Leases Ground Floor to Economic Development Corporation

The New York City Economic Development Corporation today announced the city's opening of a

WTC Business Rebuilding Center at 140 William St. (corner of Fulton Street).

The Center, operated in conjunction with the State of New York, will be responsible for administering the federal government's \$700 million economic development grant directed towards small businesses affected by the World Trade Center disaster. Additional support—including relocation services, pro bono professional services, and advice on incentives—will also be available at the center.

The city's WTC Business Rebuilding Center is a complement to the State of New York's new center at 2 Rector St. and replaces the city's former walk-in assistance center at 110 Maiden Lane, which opened just days after Sept. 11 and provided assistance to more than 5,500 companies.

More than 20,000 small businesses south of 14th Street are currently eligible for grants through the newly announced federal grant program of the U.S. Housing and Urban Development Agency, which is being jointly administered by the state and city of New York. Additional grant funding is coming on line for businesses seeking to stay or relocate in Lower Manhattan. The Center will assist these businesses and any others that desire the city's services.

"The infusion of financial aid to the



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city's affected businesses is critical," said Daniel L. Doctoroff, deputy mayor for Economic Development and Rebuilding, "To rebuild Lower Manhattan, we need to establish confidence and vitality among the thousands of small businesses that serve as a foundation for our city's economic strength. At the same time, we will work to retain and bring back the larger employers who support the service businesses, retailers and restaurants. Make no mistake: the city is committed to a full-court press for rebuilding Lower Manhattan." "EDC serves as businesses' portal to the City of New York," said EDC president Andrew M. Alper. "My number one priority is to ensure that EDC

delivers the highest level of customer service to businesses. To do this, we are collaborating closely with the state, the federal government, the private sector, industry and community groups and many others. This spirit of teamwork will be the basis of EDC's work over the coming year, and we look forward to providing both near-term relief and long-term growth opportunities to companies of all types and sizes. My door is open to anyone in the business community who wants to share ideas in this exciting collaboration."

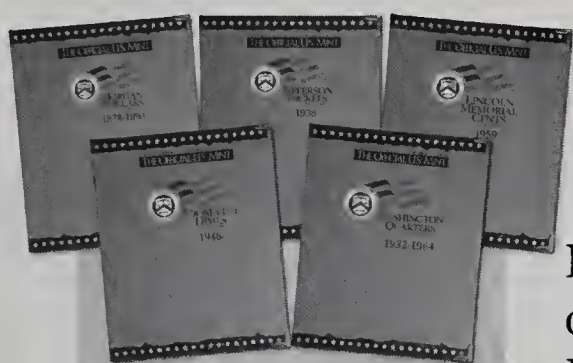
Ute Wartenberg said, "We are delighted to house the city's WTC Business Rebuilding Center and to play an important role in the revital-

ization of businesses downtown. EDC's tenancy will also give the Society a much-needed boost, and we ourselves look forward to relocating to Lower Manhattan with the city's help."

Donald Partrick, the Society's president, seconded the comment and added, "We couldn't have found a more fitting purpose or partner, and we are proud to be working with the city in such an important and historic mission of rebuilding."

Catherine Bullowa's Golden Jubilee

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Bullowa

something in common: Both are celebrating their Golden Jubilee—in coins!

Bullowa chose her latest mail bid sale to celebrate and pay tribute to friends and colleagues for a rewarding 50-year career as a professional numismatist. The British Royal Mint will issue a Golden Jubilee gold sovereign to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth's reign.

Bullowa, known for her "Coinhunter" trademark, has a worldwide reputation as a dealer in rare coins, books, paper money and medals. For 50 years she has been a presence at major American and international coin conventions and

meetings.

Past official of the Professional Numismatists Guild, Inc. and the International Association of Professional Numismatists, she is a benefactor, consultant and fellow of the American Numismatic Society, and a life member of the American Numismatic Association.

A casual interest in coins from her grandfather's collection turned serious when in 1952, she married David M. Bullowa, leading numismatic scholar, author and professional numismatist. With him as her mentor, she transferred her profession from medical research to numismatics—a new word to her at the time, she confesses.

The tragic death of David Bullowa in 1953 strengthened Catherine Bullowa's resolve to continue his work and maintain his work ethic and

high standards. Outpouring of sympathy and offers of assistance came from the numismatic community, from such friends as Col. Joseph Moss, then president of the American Numismatic Association and coin dealers Abe Kosoff, Sol Kaplan and Dan Brown, among others.

(In 1960 Bullowa married Earl Moore, a specialist in his own field of historical documents, and became known to the numismatic community through his travels with his coin-hunting wife over the years. He died in January 2002).

Mary Washington College Presents Symposium on Ancient Numismatic

On February 16, 2002, Mary Washington College presented a sym-

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Our next auction will take place at the Westbury Hotel, Bond Street, London W1 on 18th April 2002. It will include Ancient, Islamic, British and Foreign Coins, War Medals, Orders and Decorations (including a Great War Victoria Cross Group), Important Renaissance Plaquettes, Historical Medals and Banknotes. Please apply for the printed catalogue or view it on our website: www.mortonandeden.com

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posium entitled A Rich Resource: Contributions of Field Numismatics to Greek, Roman and Byzantine Studies. The conference featured presentations of distinguished academics including ANS Counselor Kenneth Harl, Former ANS Chief Curator William Metcalf and Jane Evans. The conference organizers, Liane Houghtalin and John MacIsaac, are to be commended for their efforts in organizing the conference.

As the title of the symposium suggests, the presentations highlighted the all too often unheralded contributions of field numismatics to classical studies. In so doing, the conference also touched on occasions when archeological investigation has assisted in the identification and dating of coin types.

Dr. Harl spoke about how archaeological investigations are important

for ascertaining the economic history of an area because they disclose the use of low value coins not necessarily found in major cabinets. Dr. Harl has excavated at Gordian in Turkey. This settlement was the ancient capital of the Phrygians. They were supplanted at a later date by the Galatians, a band of Celtic mercenaries. The site was occupied on and off through the Islamic period. It is estimated that the population ranged from 5,000-15,000 at various times. The site is most famous due to its association with Alexander and the Gordian knot.

There was no mint, but approximately 1500 coins were found at the site. Most are stray finds, but there were 10 hoards found. The largest contained

approximately 110 coins while the smallest contained 22 coins. The earliest hoard was of Lydian coins and the latest hoard was of Seljuk coins. Even bronze issues found at the site traveled over significant distances, i.e., from Cyprus.

Professor MacIsaac also spoke about how finds at archeological sites sometimes show economic activity that is unexpected. For example, large numbers of late Roman era "Barbarous Radiates" from Gaul have been found at Carthage.

Professors Houghtalin, MacIsaac and Metcalf provided instances where archeological investigations have discovered new types, have assisted in dating or have reclassified an issue from one authority to another. An unpublished reverse for a Titus denarius was mentioned as a new type. Dr. Metcalf recounted how

excavations at Morgantina in Sicily established 211 B.C. as the date for the first issue of the Roman denarius. As for reclassification, an example given was the First Century Roman bronze coins countermarked with Roman numerals. These were traditionally ascribed to the Vandals at Carthage, but none have been found at extensive excavations there. Rather, because they are only found in Southern Italy, it is now believed that authorities there must have found a hoard that was retariffed some time during the Dark Ages.

While the conference demonstrated many of the triumphs of field numismatics, the conference also made apparent some of its shortcomings. Numismatic finds are rarely published. Typically, find spots of coins are not even recorded. Even worse, coins smaller than 7-14 mm are often discarded because archeologists all too often do not sieve the earth they excavate. One obvious problem is the lack of resources. For example, Turkish archeologists do not even have access to basic references. On the other hand, the view that coins are only valuable as evidence for dating archaeological strata and not as objects in themselves is also probably at least partly to blame for some of these problems.

The conference should also help dispel the myth that collecting ancient coins is necessarily detrimental to archeology. Significantly, several speakers confirmed that the vast majority of coins found at archeological sites are poorly preserved specimens of ancient small change or as one participant quipped, "those coins most readily lost with the least regret." Indeed, from 50%-60% are not even identifiable due to poor soil conditions, let alone being found in collectable condition. Even when hoards are found, these tend to be small purse hoards that are subject to

the same potentially disastrous soil conditions as stray finds. Coins recovered in good condition from containers, like those found in savings and accumulation hoards, are only found infrequently at archeological sites. Jane Evans provided as an example the spectacular hoard of 99 late Roman gold coins found at Caesaria in Israel.

In sum, the conference provided an excellent overview of the contributions of field archeology to classical and numismatic studies. The only oversight was the failure of the organizers to publicize the event to collectors. This is a real pity as the conference may have otherwise benefited from a better attendance. Such outreach may have also helped bridge

some of the misunderstanding between collectors and archeologists.

The American Numismatic Society Contributions Report from October 2001 to March 2002 **Total 1,122,046.24**

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New Book by ANS Fellow Daniel M. Friedenber

"So you think America is a democracy with representatives of the people, elected by the people in free elections, doing the will of the people in governing the country? Think again." These are the first lines from the dusk jacket of "Sold to the Highest Bidder: The Presidency from Dwight D. Eisenhower to George W. Bush", a new book by Daniel M. Friedenber. In the combative and intelligent style, typical for this Life ANS Fellow, the book gives an in-depth analysis of the presidency in the second half of the 20th century.

The book is the latest work by this

productive author. Among art historians, numismatists and ANS members, Friedenber, who lives in New York, is well known for his standard works on Jewish medals. His books include Great Jewish Portraits in Metal, Jewish Minter and Medalists, and Jewish Medals from the Renaissance to the Fall of Napoleon (1503-1815). Formerly a curator of Coins and Medals at the Jewish Museum in New York City, he has a keen interest and outstanding knowledge in this area. In 2000 he donated a part of his own collection of over 500 Jewish medals to the American Numismatic Society.

Friedenber's achievements go well beyond the field of medals. Educated at Stuyvesant High School in Manhattan and the University of Pennsylvania (B.Sc. in Eco.), he is President of the John-Platt Enterprises, Inc., as New York City company engaged in general investment. But his real love is clearly writing. Well over one-hundred of his articles, short stories, poems and literary essays have been published in a variety of venues, ranging from the Harper's or Esquire to the Numismatists and Poetry.com. He also contributed as a special correspondent to the former New York Herald Tribune.

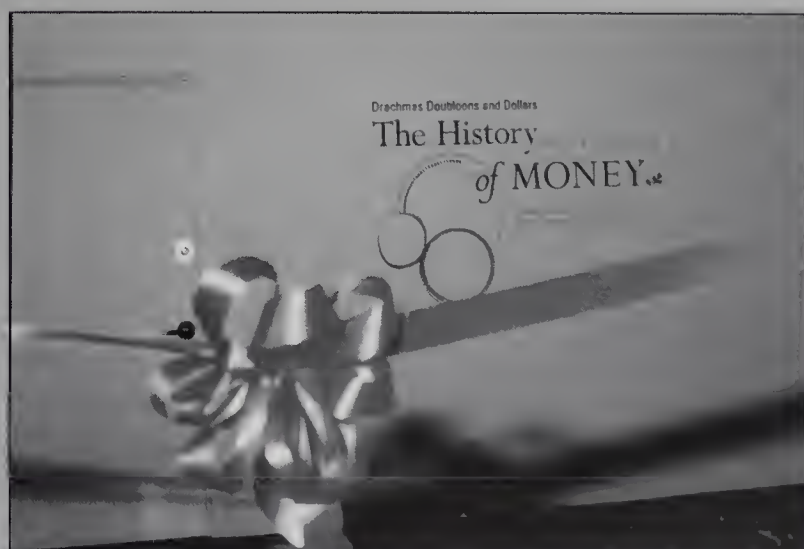
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Photo 1. Dr. Greenspan began his speech with a joke about Henry Kissinger, who could not attend the opening. "One fact that might not be too well known is the fact that it was I who taught Henry his accent. And we all know that it is his accent that made him so successful", the Fed Chairman told the assembled guests. Photo 2. William McDonough, President of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, greets the over 200 guests, including Alan Greenspan and Senator (D) Jon Corzine. Photo 3. Senator Jon Corzine of New Jersey at the opening. Over 25 journalists and TV stations carried the opening of the exhibition. Photo 4. ANS Member Dr. Hubert Lanz and Mrs. McDonough are listening to the opening speech of Dr. Greenspan. Photo 5. Executive Director Ute Wartenberg with ANS Fellow Herman Miller and Grace Lang in the front hall of the Fed.

On Jan. 16, the exhibition "Drachmas, Doubloons and Dollars. A History of Money" was opened in the presence of Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan, Senator Jon Corzine, and almost two-hundred invited guests.



Drachmas, Doubloons and Dollars



Photo 6. William and Aimee Maroney. Photo 7. Councilor David Simpson, ANS President Donald Partrick, and Angela Fowler, the daughter of former ANS President Harry Fowler. Photo 8. ANS Librarian Frank Campbell with ANS Fellow Catherine Bullova and another guest at the opening. Photo 9. Steve Goldsmith of sponsor R.M. Smythe, Mark Anderson and Chet Krause in the exhibition space. Photo 10. ANS Member Brent Pogue with ANS Vice President John Whitney Walter. Photo 11. Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan and Mrs. McDonough before the ribbon cutting

Drachmas, Doubloons and Dollars



12.



13.



14.



15.



16.

Photo 12. Rosemary Lazenby, archivist of the Fed and co-organizer of the exhibition with ANS Vice President John Whitney Walter, ANS President Donald Partrick, and ANS Director of Development Pamala Plummer-Wright. Photo 13. Mrs. and Mrs. William Mc Donough, Alan Greenspan, Don Partrick, Ute Wartenberg and Chet Krause admiring the case of early money in New York. Photo 14. Councilor George Wyper and ANS President Donald Partrick. Photo 15. Guests from Europe: ANS Fellow Basil Demetriadi from Athens, Hubert Lanz from Munich and Michel Amandry, Director of the Coin Cabinet of the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris. Photo 16. Mrs. & Mr. Jason Sanchez, ANS President Partrick and ANS Fellow Kenneth McKenzie.

The Making Of Drachmas, Doubloons & Dollars

BY OLIVER D. HOOVER

As most readers will know, the American Numismatic Society maintains the largest collection of coins, currency, and medals (about 750,000 pieces) in North America. Because of the abundance of material in our cabinets it was, at first, a daunting task to reduce the list of items down to the 728 pieces now on display in "Drachmas, Doubloons and Dollars: The History of Money" at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. To

decide on which pieces were to be displayed, we asked ourselves two key questions while looking through the trays: "Is the proposed item a truly beautiful specimen of its type?" and "Does it have an interesting story to tell?" The ANS is very fortunate in that it has a wealth of material that answers both of these questions with a resounding, "Yes!" However, while many attractive and rare items can be found in the trays, the true crème de





la crème of the collection is kept in several bank vaults for security reasons.

Therefore, early on in the development process, we took several banking field trips to get a first hand look at the prizes of the ANS (e.g. both

Athenian dekadrachms, the "standing caliph" dinar, the 1804 U.S. dollar, etc.) and to decide which of them deserved a place in the exhibit.

Needless to say it was quite exciting to see these items, some of which had been in the bank for a while. The perfectly preserved Greek and Roman gold coins and the wonderful medallion depicting Diocletian and his associated Tetrarchs, as well as the large collection

of Italian Renaissance portrait gold issues would have impressed even the most callous observer. For a lover of coins and their history it was paradise.

The collection of American rarities, including both the colonial and federal periods, was amazing to see together in the bank vault. There is definitely something to be said for the feeling that one has while holding the ANS specimen of the 1804 U.S. dollar in one hand and the Brasher doubloon in the other. We were very pleased to find at least one special bank item for almost every case, thereby providing a star around which the other coins might attractively orbit. It was with great pleasure that we were able to take these extremely beautiful and rarely seen coins out of the banks and put them on public display for all to enjoy.

As for any good museum show, it was necessary to decide upon the best manner for organizing and displaying

the objects once they were chosen.

A chronological approach seemed the most reasonable, in order to give the visitor a step-by-step introduction to the development of monetary use, production and art. Each display case was intended to reflect a particular epoch in the history of money, from the first Lydian electrum coins produced in the 7th century B.C. down to the credit and debit cards of the 21st century A.D. Because the use of coinage and other forms of money developed differently in various parts of the world we decided that it was important to include additional cases to focus on changes in the money of East and South Asia (Cases 5 and 11) and Africa (Case 10). We are particularly proud of the African case, which includes a number of large and well-preserved items used for exchange and displays of wealth. It was also decided that separate cases should be made for America (Cases 9, 13 and 15) and Europe (Cases 8, 12 and 14) in the 18th, 19th and 20th

centuries. It only seemed fitting since the ANS and the FRB are both American institutions and coin collecting is a pastime enjoyed by many Americans.

In addition to the historical cases, it also seemed wise to include four additional special cases, devoted to other items from the ANS collection, which might be better appreciated outside of the chronological arrangement used for the rest of the exhibit. For example, a separate case (Case 20) has been provided to display a colorful range of paper money, including a number of rarities. Similarly, Case 16 has been set aside to showcase highlights in the development of the art medal, an art form closely related to coins. After all, support for the medallic arts has been an important feature of the American Numismatic Society since the 1890s. A third special case (Case 19) was required to give the visitor a brief tour of New York in the mid-19th century through the use of an antique

map and a selection of tokens and paper notes produced by local businesses, some of which still exist today. The fourth unique case (Case 18) was reserved for the display of several rare and incredibly valuable "U.S. Treasures of the American Numismatic Society", including a Brasher doubloon, a 1804 U.S. dollar, the Confederate half-dollar and an ultra-high relief St. Gaudens double eagle.

Once the basic organization of the cases was decided upon it was time to call in the professional designers. Their aesthetic skills allowed us to display the coins and medals at their very best, and to present the descriptive text in a manner that would most easily guide the visitor through the history of monetary development. We were very fortunate to work with some of the best designers in the museum business, and the fruits of their labors as well as of ours can be seen throughout the exhibition.

Drachmas, Doubloons and Dollars was a learning experience for all staff members involved in its development. Although each of us has our own special area of expertise and knowledge, this project required us to stretch and expand our horizons. Those of us who normally work on ancient coins learned to appreciate and enjoy the modern, while those of us who deal with more recent material, whether of the Islamic dynasties, the American colonies, or modern medallists, also gained new insight by looking at what had come before. It is our hope that, along with the thrill of having seen some of the most beautiful and valuable coins on public display in North America, visitors to the exhibit will come away with some new understanding of money, the powerful, yet mysterious, force that affects our lives on a daily basis.

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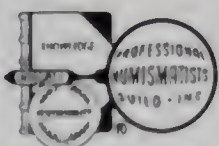
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The History Of The ANS The First Years

ABRIGED BY JENNIFER MAZURKIE FROM HOWARD
ADELSON'S HISTORY OF THE ANS

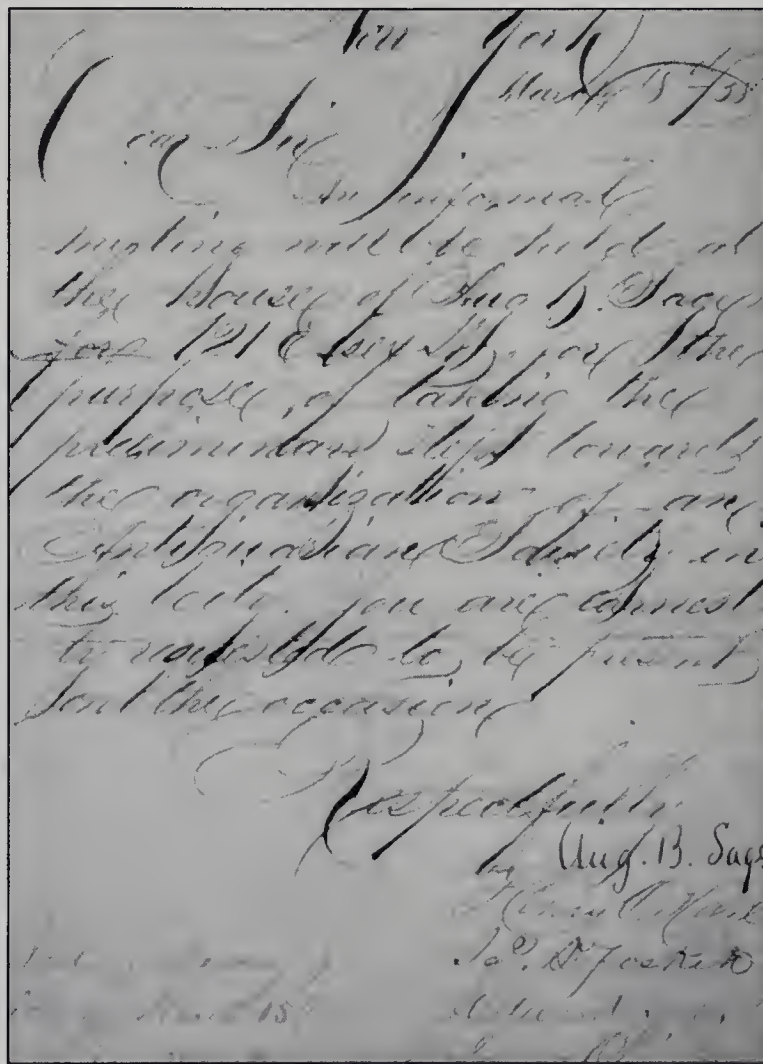
The year 2008 will mark the 150th anniversary of the American Numismatic Society. In anticipation, we plan to publish a history of the ANS, in installments covering a decade each, over the next six years. In its first decade, the ANS was clearly characterized by the events of the time. In fact, it was a product of the social and an economic change taking place—and was shaped by the devastating effects of war.

The Great American Cultural Revival and the Birth of an Idea

Although an avid interest in the collecting and study of coins has been a

passion for many almost since the advent of coinage, it was not until the

mid 19th century that learned societies took the forefront of numismatic research. The American Numismatic Society, founded in March of 1858, was the second numismatic organization to be formed in the U. S. The first—by only a couple of months—was the Numismatic Society of Philadelphia, founded in January of 1858. The seemingly sudden interest in numismatics in the mid-1800s has as much



Invitation to establish The American Numismatic Society penned by Augustus B. Sage on March 8, 1856

to do with the social and cultural milieu of that age as it does the changes to the U.S. monetary system that took place in the 1850s.

The end of the 18th century and early part of the 19th century wit-

nessed the beginning of an American cultural revival that exploded between the 1830s and 1860. Great thinkers such as Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin had sparked an interest in learning and cultural pursuits that now trickled down to the general populace. This was the age of Emerson, Thoreau, and Longfellow, and New England—particularly Boston—was the center of this phenomenon. The popularization of knowledge so infiltrated daily life that the mill workers of Lowell, Mass., were encouraged to spend their free time reading, attending scientific discussions, or otherwise bettering themselves. The first public libraries came into existence mid-century, and the number of public schools and colleges in the country greatly increased. The large number of daily newspapers in existence by this time is testament to the rise in literacy rates—and not just for the upper classes.

Despite all this, the field of numismatic studies was fairly barren during the first half of the century. However, reforms to the U.S. monetary system were in the works—and these reforms would force people to look at their coins and notes in a new light. It all

started in 1848 with the discovery of gold in the west, which dramatically changed the market values of gold and silver. In addition, silver had been flowing out of the country at a very rapid rate since about 1844. Much of what was left in the country was markedly underweight, and a significant amount of it was foreign currency. The introduction in the 1850s of fiduciary silver coins in all denominations (except the one-dollar coin) was intended to combat the unstable monetary system; it had the added benefit of driving foreign silver from the market. An 1857 law abolishing the half-cent and calling for the manufacture of a new type of cent, as well as declaring foreign silver no longer legal tender, rounded out the monetary changes of the decade. These were drastic; numerous changes in the circulating coinage that people handled everyday. With the realization that many coin types would no longer be available, a new breed of collector and scholar was born—the numismatist.

One avid numismatist was Augustus B. Sage, who in 1857 under the name of “Gus,” published a series of articles titled “Gleanings from Coins” in the *New York Sunday Dispatch*. Sage was a New York City coin dealer, and was an integral part of the founding of the ANS. In fact, for the first year, ANS meetings were held at his home at 121 Essex St. In early March of 1858, Sage hosted a few proposal meetings for a new society dedicated to numismatics. The first regular meeting of the ANS was held on April 6 of that year. The 12 founders present at that meeting were Sage, Dr. Thomas Dunn English, John Cooper Vail, James D. Foskett, James Oliver, Edward Groh, Alfred Boughton, Ezra Hill, Jacob J. Melber, Henry Whitmore, Dr. Isaac Hand Gibbs, and Asher T. Atkinson.

Developing an Identity

For the initial meeting, Gibbs was elected president pro tempore, and Sage was named secretary pro tempore. At some point in March, Sage had drawn up a draft of the constitu-

tion and bylaws. This was discussed at the April 6 meeting. Attendees quickly reached an agreement on reworking the documents. English drew up a final version, which was unanimously supported and was adopted at the first meeting. This original constitution emphasized the society’s dedication to American coinage only—in fact, the ANS’s aims were “the collection and preservation of the coins and medals struck in this country.” However, later reflection upon the wording of the constitution and bylaws seems to have given many members pause; as soon as the documents were published, members began making proposals for revisions. Revisions suggested at the fifth meeting (July 13, 1858) would have altered the wording that restricted interest only to American objects.

At the second regular meeting (April 13, 1858), regular officers were elected. These were: Gibbs as president, Vail and Whitmore as vice presidents, Foskett as actuary (this was later replaced by the position of curator), Oliver as secretary, and Lawrence as treasurer. It seems that English, who ran against Gibbs for the office of president, was upset at his defeat—he never returned to another meeting, claiming disappointment that some members intended “to turn the affair into a machine for trading coins.” Standing committees were also formed at this meeting: the Committee on Coins, the Committee on Medals, the Committee on Transactions, and the Committee on Library.

In early 1859, the society members recognized that it was time to have the society incorporated by the Legislature. By April, the necessary

steps had been taken to carry this out. However, it was discovered that one of the officers, the curator, William Legett Bramhall, was a minor and therefore ineligible to serve as a trustee or officer of an incorporated society.

Interestingly, Bramhall served, with distinction, as a captain of volunteers in the Civil War two years later. Groh replaced Bramhall in his office so that the incorporation would go through. However, by the time of the last meeting prior to the end of the Civil War (Oct. 20, 1859), the incorporation hadn’t taken effect.

Another issue that began to plague the society, and which became a recurring problem for several years to come, was finding a suitable, regular meeting place. It soon became clear that an alternative to Sage’s home must be found, and the society bounced around from rented room to rented room during its first decade—never staying more than five months or so at any one location.

Outreach and Growth

For its first two years, the society managed to expand its membership beyond Manhattan. Notices about the ANS were placed in local newspapers in such places as Boston, Cincinnati, Maine, and Kentucky. One of the first corresponding members was Charles B.



1825 half-cent, ex. Augustus B. Sage.
The first coin given to the ANS.

Endicott of Boston, who donated a pattern guinea of George III to the society. In addition, the group was becoming a model for other numismatic organizations across the country, such as the Boston Numismatic Society, the Rhode Island

Numismatic Society, the New England Numismatic and Archeological Society, and similar groups in New Haven and Montreal. Clearly, the study of numismatics was taking off in America.

The society made no coin purchases during these years, but spent much of its time on scholarly research. At a meeting on Nov. 19, 1858, a member named William Frederick Mayers delivered a paper titled "The Literature of American Numismatics." During the Dec. 2 meeting of that year, the secretary read a letter from a man in Cincinnati who requested information on a vase full of silver coins. The society's conclusions were printed in the local Cincinnati paper.

Solicitations for donations to the collection and library were made during these years, and the nucleus of both was formed. The first donation (in April 1858), came from Augustus B. Sage himself. The Society's accession book, acquired later that year, describes each of the 52 items in detail, including 25 "hard times tokens" and coins from South America, Europe, and the U.S. The first listing, a half-cent of 1825, is still in the collection, with the distinguished accession number 1858.1.1. Many institutions began to send the Society copies of medals they commissioned.

Cessation and Rebirth

John Brown raided the Federal arsenal at Harper's Ferry, Va., on Oct. 16, 1859, and it was clear that the country was on the brink of dramatic change. With the election of Abraham Lincoln in 1860 and the secession of South Carolina later that year, it's not surprising that the last meeting of the society for almost five years was held in October 1859. Several of the society's members were young men of military age. The society's first meeting following the war was held in February 1865 at the home of George Perine at 6 E. 22nd St. In addition to Perine, five other pre-war members were in attendance.

The revitalized society seemed

intent upon picking up where they left off in 1859. However, they were ripe for some changes. At this point, the group called itself "The American Numismatic and Archeological Society."

The constitution and bylaws were completely revised and republished. However, some of the old problems still presented themselves: the society had no suitable meeting place, had not been incorporated and had no seal. Two of these issues were soon cleared up. The matter of incorporation was revisited in November of 1864 and an act dated May 16, 1865, was finally signed by seven society officers and was accepted by the state.

Attempts to create a seal and certificate of membership had been started before the war, but got nowhere. In 1865, members designed and approved the society's first seal. Minimalist in design, the seal displayed only text: Running semi-circularly around the outside, along the edges and at top, was the inscription, "American Numismatic and Archeological Society." "New York," ran along the bottom edge. In the center of this was a six-line inscription: "Founded / 1857 / Reorganized / 1864 / Incorporated / 1865." Although informative, the seal was not visually appealing. In 1867, a committee took up the seal's redesign with Charles E. Anthon as catalyst. Anthon was a professor of history and belles lettres at what would eventually be known as the College of the City of New York. He spearheaded the endeavor that resulted in a seal similar to the one presently used by the ANS: an image of three oak leaves joined to a stem with four acorns; above the leaves in a semi-circle was the motto "parva ne pereant" (may the little things not perish), and the name "Soci. Amer. Numis. et Archeol." ran in a semi-circle beneath the leaves.

The First Commission

Toward the end of the society's first decade, another history-making event took place: Abraham Lincoln was

shot and killed. The ANS, reeling under the weight of this news along with the rest of the world, realized yet another of its functions. A special committee resolved "that since it is the duty of this society to perpetuate the memorials of historic greatness, we will cause to be struck in bronze a medal, designed to commemorate the life and perpetuate the name of Abraham Lincoln." This ambitious undertaking proved to be fraught with delays and mistakes-the biggest of which was hiring what turned out to be an inexperienced, or just very bad, medallist named Emil Sigel. Sigel was not a prominent medallist, and other than his work for the ANS, he is not known. At any rate, dies were eventually manufactured, and, in February 1866, George Perine actually presented impressions of the medal to President Andrew Johnson and George Bancroft, orator of the day. Press reports of the day indicate that the presentation was a success, and both Johnson and Bancroft were thrilled with the medal.

It was Sigel's lack of technical knowledge in design and die creation that caused huge problems. Although the society planned to sell the medal struck in bronze, the dies were inferior. In April 1866, Sigel wrote to the society that the dies had broken during use and that he recommended the medal be issued in tin. Although it was decided to have Sigel recreate the dies and, indeed, issue the Lincoln medal primarily in tin, delays dragged out the matter for years. In January 1868, when the society thought they were making the final arrangements with the U.S. Mint in Philadelphia before striking with the second set of dies, they received bad news from William E. Dubois, superintendent of the mint. He called the dies, "a great blunder," and said they were, "in violation of all rule." Although the society had planned to sell the medals for \$3, Dubois could not charge less than \$4.25 for manufacture.

Immediately after receiving Dubois's letter, an agreement was reached with Sigel: Sigel was to pay

the ANS \$720, either in money or in medals, in return for all stocks and ownerships of both sets of dies. Although some tin medals were struck and eventually sold (an 1874 report states that receipts for medals sold totaled \$62.50), the society washed its hands of the whole business by January 1875. It appears that Sigel never fulfilled his part of the agreement by delivering \$720 in money or medals.

The American Journal of Numismatics

The last two years of the ANS's first decade also witnessed the development of a journalistic endeavor-one that exists today. During the March 8, 1866, meeting, society member Joseph Levick proposed establishing a monthly numismatic and archeological journal. Journals covering these topics already existed in abun-

dance in Europe, but there were none in the United States. Just a couple of weeks later, at the March 22 annual meeting, the proposal was approved. Although the society recognized the potential financial problems, it was agreed that the society would guarantee publication for a year. However, after that, any expenses not covered by proceeds from the journal would be paid through "assessments on the members." By May 1866, the first issue of the American Journal of Numismatics was ready.

The first issues of the AJN were in no way scholarly. They contained notices, the society's meeting minutes, a question-and-answer section and articles of a popular nature. By the July issue, efforts to build up circulation resulted in the inclusion of the transactions of the Boston Numismatic Society. The minutes of the New England Numismatic and

Archeological Society appeared in the August issue. The journal was clearly becoming a key means of communication for numismatic societies around the country-even in Canada.

At the end of the first year, it was clear that the AJN was far from a financial success-in fact, its subscriptions covered only half the expenses. Members were determined not to drop the project, however, and focused on building up circulation, as well as the length of the journal.

Nevertheless, the uncovered expenses continued to overwhelm, largely due to the negligence of subscribers toward attending to their debts. Although the AJN had 200 subscribers by April 1868, many of them had not paid their subscription money. One issue of the journal even carried a plea for those who hadn't yet done so to pay up "at once." ○

***Congratulations
On a Very
Successful Opening
And
Best Wishes
For a Promising
Year!!
Mr. and Mrs. David
Simpson***

***To The Staff of
The American
Numismatic Society
And
The Federal
Reserve Bank

Congratulations
On a Job Well Done!!!
Mr. Tony Terranova***

Saltus Award And Scher Lecture

BY ROBERT HOGE

The annual presentation of the J. Sanford Saltus Award Medal of the American Numismatic Society, "for signal achievement in the art of the medal," took place on Saturday, Feb. 9, in the West Gallery of the museum. This year's recipient was the distinguished Finnish sculptor, Toivo Antero Jaatinen, accompanied on his visit to New York by his son, Raimo Jaatinen-also a prominent Finnish medallic artist. Those in attendance were treated to a home video of medallic technique and tradition prepared by the Saltus winner. An exhibition of Jaatinen's works, and a selection of those of other Finnish medalists from the late 19th to the late 20th centuries, was mounted in the East gallery.

The annual Stephen K. Scher Lecture, medallic sculpture, followed the Saltus Award ceremony. This year's speaker was Richard Stone, Conservator of the Sherman Fairchild Center for Objects Conservation at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. In his address, "The Renaissance Cast Medal: Technology and Appearance," he postulated that no original versions of the classic renaissance medals seem to be extant; that various casting and surface chemical treatment methods employed at the time explain the variations in quality, size and appearance of the surviving "aftercasts."

The afternoon event was concluded by a Chinese banquet in honor of the guests at the Tang Pavilion restaurant, 65 W. 55th St. The Citation for the



Photography by Raimo Jaatinen

Top photo: Finnish sculptor Toivo Antero Jaatinen working in his studio. Photo right: Toivo Antero Jaatinen being presented with the 2002 J. Sanford award medal by the honorable Dr. Stephen K. Scher.



Award of the J. Sanford Saltus Medal

The northern forests of Suomi-Finland have witnessed epic struggles of human urge toward identity and independence. Rich in natural and cultural resources, the country has maintained itself through centuries of foreign domination and, in the 20th century, achieved national status of its own. It is perhaps symbolic of Finland's constant efforts and final realization of independent nationality



Dr. Elena Stolyarik

that the past century presents a panorama of outstanding production in the field of that most symbolic, exacting and personal creation: The medallic sculpture.

Under the auspices of Sweden and Russia, the competing powers which dominated Finland and its politics, a variety of medals were issued with a Finnish connection, and in the late 19th century the mint in Helsinki commenced to strike medals. The first such medal to recognize a private person, the explorer, N. A. E. Nordenskiöld, in 1880, was the joint work of Jacob Ahrenberg, Walter Runeberg and Carl Jahn, bringing to bear their experiences from mints abroad. German-born engraver Jahn worked with the Swede, Eric Lindberg, who in turn served as a

teacher for Finnish artist, Gerda Qvist. Qvist holds a unique place in Finnish medallic sculpture as the first, about 1920, to create cast medals in a field in which her students and successors were to excel.

The Finnish Numismatic Society was founded in 1914, and independence from Russian domination was achieved in 1917, leading to a florescence of medallic sculpture. Artists like Gunnar Finne, Emil Wikström, Waino Aaltonen, Viktor Malmberg, Felix Nylund, Bruno Aspelin and Ville Vallgren soon joined Gerda Qvist in developing new tendencies in the medium through the 1920s and '30s and thereafter. Through the 20th century, Finnish medallic sculptors have continued to excel. At every congress of the International Federation of the Medal (FIDEM), their vibrancy, creativity, innovation and productivity have been strikingly evident.

In general, Finnish medalists have enjoyed a strong tradition of three-dimensional and monumental sculptural production, which is often reflected in the character of their work. Toivo Jaatinen, the creative genius whom we honor here today, is no exception. If there is a quality that characterizes the work of the Finnish medalists, it might be a sense of exploration and experimentation within a strong framework of tradition and technical discipline. Toivo Jaatinen's medallic sculptures brilliantly reflect these tendencies.

Born in 1926 near Sortavala in Finnish Karelia (the area annexed by the Soviet Union in World War II), Jaatinen was trained at the Central School of Art and Crafts and the Academy of Fine Arts in Helsinki. He first exhibited his sculptures in 1952, since that time has participated in 25 expositions and has created 15 public monumental sculptures. While he began experimenting with bas relief work in the early 1950s, he did not undertake medallic commissions

until 1962, and felt that his career in this arena did not really begin until the late 1960s. He has produced 55 commissioned medals, a fine selection of which he has made available for display here at the American Numismatic Society. His productions frequently demonstrate his early training with the master-artist, Gerda Qvist, from whom he acquired some of the elements observed in his work.

Jaatinen has stated, "I never tried to create or assimilate consciously any artistic style, which could be recognized as the special style of my own. But in my art it is possible to see the influence of the traditional Finnish sculpture from the 1930s and '40s."

He modestly gives credit for his accomplishments to his fine mentors. "During and after my studies at the end of the '40s, I worked as an assistant for many well-known Finnish sculptors. The artistic vision and sculptural expression, which was common to all of them, aimed at creating firm, plastic and monumental three-dimensional form structures."

The prize-winning medalist is also a teacher himself, and an enthusiastic proponent and technician in the field of bronze-casting foundry work. His creations are to be found in a number of collections both in Finland and abroad, including France, Belgium, Poland, the Vatican and the Imperial Court of Japan. Something of the strength and character of his homeland resonates in Jaatinen's work: contrast of light and shadow, as in the long, dark winter's night with glowing snow and ice; long, summer days through brooding shadowy forests and bright waters; people with a profound interest in heritage, excellence and creativity.

It is our distinct pleasure and honor to present the J. Sanford Saltus Award for Signal Achievement in the Art of the Medal to Toivo Jaatinen, and to welcome him and his son Raimo, also a medallic sculptor of renown, to this country and this institution.

MOVING TO THE ANS

September 11, 2001. New York City. There, where I was going to commence duties as the new Curator of American Coins and Currency at the American Numismatic Society, a new job, a new home, a new pattern of living and, in many respects, a new reality would now be my future.

Leaving Colorado Springs, my home of twenty years while serving as Curator of the Museum of the American Numismatic Association, I had walked into my apartment's management office to turn in my keys, and encountered the staff staring dumbfoundedly at the television screen. I looked too, and saw the horrifically indelible image of the World Trade Center collapsing. I don't think I can ever describe the things that ran through my mind as I slumped in a chair and watched, again, the catastrophe unfolding.

My worldly goods were already en route. I had my ticket, but could not reach the airline to learn whether we would fly. What would happen next? Three days I tarried, then my flight was one of the first ones, from Denver to Newark, upon the reopening of air service.

A lengthy tale could be told of the small vicissitudes of my move, as my family and some of my friends and numismatic and museological colleagues know. Suffice it to say that I did get into the city and was able to begin work immediately with the staff at the ANS, while the telephones were still out of service and the sky filled with smoke and dust, fumes and litter, and the wraiths of human lives and dreams. Once there, I found an assortment of messages and projects already awaiting me. The

specter of the recent disaster loomed very real, but the busy schedule of activities at the Society helped maintain my focus.

As I take a moment to reflect upon my recent months with the ANS, I'm struck by our pace and range of functions: among them, the meeting of the ANS Council, with its associated temporary exhibit featuring a selection of the recent Museum and Library acquisitions; the great exhibition of rarities and other exemplary items "Drachmas, Doubloons and Dollars"—mostly completed before my arrival—installed at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York; the New York Antiquities Fair in December and the New York International Coin Fair in January; the meetings of the J. Sanford Saltus Award Medal Committee, and the event for the presentation of the award, along with the Stephen K. Scher Annual Lecture.

Routine work included many requests, via post, telephone, "walk-ins" and e-mail, for information, consultations and photographic orders. On other occasions, I presented four outside talks: one at the annual meeting of the New Jersey Numismatic Society, one for the Washington, D.C., Ancient Coins Club, another at the New York International Coin Fair and one at the ANA convention in Jacksonville, Florida.

Undoubtedly, the most enjoyable aspect of my new job has been contact with so many people who share some of my interests. Foremost among these are my outstanding colleagues on the staff here at the ANS; what a dedicated and talented group they are! The ANS also has its own small group of devoted volunteers.

There is our team of stalwart docents, who provide interpretation for visitors at the ANS' fabulous new exhibition in the Federal Reserve Bank of New York: Bill Bischoff, Jerry Haggerty, Michael Parris and Peter Sugar. Helping with the collections, we have Henry Bergos in English coins, Charlie Karukstis with Arab-Byzantine issues, David Feinstein in New York items, David Jen in Chinese coins, Kenneth McKenzie in Turkish coinage and Ted Withington in ancient and oriental coins and medals. Our part-time student assistants, Dawn Bennett and Julia DuBois, carefully catalog many items into our superb database and process research requests.

Visiting researchers certainly account for much of the ANS cabinet's fame and value to scholarship. In alphabetical order, I quickly count off some of those whom it has been my pleasure to meet and to serve. There was Michel Amandry, Director of the Coin Cabinet of the Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris, working on a new volume of Roman Provincial Coinage; Robert Blank, researching varieties of Hunan Provincial Chinese coppers; Irv Brotman, authority on South Asian temple tokens; Francois de Callatay, of the Royal Library cabinet, Brussels; Dave Camire, error specialist; Edmund Carpenter, investigating the suspicious claims of a Norse coin found in Maine; and Jonathan Conant, of Harvard University, with recent finds from ongoing excavations at Carthage.

Other visiting researchers included Loretta Goldberg, studying England's Elizabeth I; Leon Hernandez-Canut y

Espana, researching Medieval Spanish issues; Amber Hough and Shannon White, from the University of Pennsylvania Museum; Barbara Mears, researching ancient South Indian coppers; Professor Barbara Mundy, Spanish Colonial Art Historian from Fordham University; Luis R. Ponte Puigbo, studying Venezuelan issues; and Robert Schaaf, investigating Sasanian Persian coinage.

At the same time, I've enjoyed the visits of other colleagues whom I had already met through the ANA and the ANS in the past: Michael Alram, Peter and Hortensia Bartlett, Carmen Arnold-Biucchi, Chris Connell, George Cuhaj, Richard Doty, Dan

Freidus, Peter Gaspar, Cory and Tommy Gilliland, J. S. Giordano, John Kleeberg, Robert Leonard, Emmett McDonald, William Metcalf, Brian Silliman, and last but certainly not least, David L. Vagi.

Tempus fugit, as the Romans would have said. "Time flies," and the events of September 11 may serve to help all of us keep in mind how we fill our days, to remember to look back on where we have been, and think about where we may be going. It still seems to me that I have just started at the ANS, that the events of September have just taken place, yet a great deal has happened in this short span of time, with more to come. I'm fortunate in knowing and

working with so many people who share a sense of stewardship, who believe they can do things that matter and help one another.

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The ANS is at the forefront of using the Internet to bring its resources to collectors and scholars around the world. Our website makes available descriptions of all our cataloged objects-over 500,000 records-and catalogues the Society's library which holds the finest collection of numismatic books in the world. These two resources are actively used by numismatists from around the globe. The coin database is searched over 200 times each day and the library catalogue receives over 50 requests per day.

Though the main page of the website, www.amnumsoc.org, receives over 50,000 hits per month, many are from automated search engines, not individual users.

While we have a long way to go

until our site is as popular as Yahoo or E-bay, the numbers show the Internet already plays an important part in the Society's mission assisting both collectors and scholars.

Technology changes quickly these days and the Society is working hard to keep up with the times and can be an expensive proposition for a non-profit institution. We are pleased to announce that the Classical Numismatics Group has recently agreed to pledge \$9,000 towards the upgrade and redesign of our collection's management system. As of press time, we are in the early stages of transferring our data to FileMaker Pro from the existing DOS-based system.

What we have now has served us well but it is time to take advantage of

the modern user-interfaces now available. Previous work on the database received support from the Harry Bass Research Foundation.

The CNG funded improvements will also lead to a better website. In particular, the switch to FileMaker will allow for more regular updates to the online version of the database, speedier searches and improved appearance. As always, we continue to add images of our coins to the site to the over 2,000 objects illustrated.

Our goal is to continually improve our site and we welcome user feedback.

In the next issue, "Numismatics.org" will look more closely at how the website works and will explore some of its more powerful features.

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For years objects from the Society's collection have appeared in exhibits throughout the world. Visitors to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, in New York City have the

opportunity to enjoy 179 extraordinary coins that the American Numismatic Society has lent for permanent exhibitions in the Greek, Cypriot and Byzantine art galleries. The Society has lent 22



Silver Stater of Euagoras I of Amathus, Cyprus, 391-380 B. C.

Greek and Roman objects for the permanent exhibition "The Classical Past" at the Tampa Museum of Art in Florida. The coins, which have been on view since 1983, constitute about 70% of gallery displays. Each year approximately 10,000 children study ANS coins in collaboration with their classroom

studies of the ancient world. The ANS objects have been a great success for the educational program Legacy of the Ancient World.

The John Jacob Astor and Chouteau Indian Peace Medals are on permanent exhibit at the Fort Union Trading Post, National Park Service Visitor Center in North Dakota. The post, built in 1828 by John Jacob Astor's American Fur Company, was the headquarters for beaver furs and buffalo hide trading with the Assiniboin Indians to the north, the Crow Indians on the

upper Yellowstone and the Blackfeet who lived further up the Missouri.

The ANS medals play a valuable role in the Fort Union Trading Post exhibition.



"Jefferson Peace Medal"

One of the George III medals showing Indians and Quakers together on a bench was lent to the permanent exhibit at the Museum of American Revolution in the Yorktown Victory Center. The medal is an important artifact in the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation gallery "Witnesses to Revolution," significant in the story of Little Abraham.



Silver Medallion of Constantine, A. D. 337-350.

The Thomas Jefferson Indian Peace Medal continues to play a central role in the highly successful exhibit "The World of Thomas Jefferson" at the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation at Monticello, where

the medal has been on display since March 1993. The medal, which is truly important in the interpretation of Jefferson's achievements, is displayed in Monticello's Entrance Hall where more than 500,000 people see it each year.

The Foundation is planning an exhibit in conjunction with the Lewis and Clark bicentennial "Framing the West at Monticello" where the ANS medal will be an important visual symbol in 2003.



Miliaresion of Basil II, A. D. 976-1025.



Gold Solidus of Constantine, A. D. 306-337.

A selection of 14 outstanding objects of the Late Roman period from the ANS collection will be included in a

special exhibit "What is a Man? Changing Images of Masculinity in Late Antique Art." The Exhibit will be on display in the Douglas F. Cooley Memorial Art Gallery at Reed College, a teaching gallery serving the college and the communities of Portland and the Pacific Northwest, from April to June. The ANS coins will be a centerpiece of Reed College's humanities curriculum in the spring of 2002.

**To the
American Numismatic
Society**

**Congratulations
on an extraordinary
exhibit Drachmas,
Dobloons and
Dollars.
The History of Money
is a magnificent
exhibit and a must
see for all.**

**Best wishes,
Dr. Joanne and
Dr. Jay Galst**

Acquisition Of Spanish Tumbaga Bars

BY ROBERT HOGGE

The Society has recently obtained four particularly interesting and historically significant specimens of 16th century would-be minting.

material. These items are typical examples of a truly remarkable find: precious-metal bars demonstrating stages of metal-working/minting technology in the context of one of the world's greatest cross-cultural upheavals, the Spanish conquest of the Americas. Among the very few items that have been selected for acquisition in recent years through designated funds, the bars were acquired at a favorable price through



One of the Tumbaga bars acquired recently for the collection.

specialist dealer, Daniel Frank Sedwick. The Society continues to seek patron-sponsors for these and other prospective purchases.

During the 1992 season of its licensed salvage work off the coast of Grand Bahama Island, the Marex Corporation located the remains of

one or more shipwrecks dating from the very early period of Spanish conquest and colonization in the New World. Among the artifacts recovered from the remains of a vessel appearing to date from the third decade of the 16th century were approximately 200 cast slabs of precious metal matching descriptions of tumbaga bars mentioned in contemporary references. These remarkable finds, which represent some of the oldest known examples of the vast treasures seized by the conquistadores, provide a glimpse into the first stages of Colonial Spanish metallurgy which culminated in the establishment of the great mint of Mexico in 1536.

The ANS' four bars have considerable information to reveal to us about the practices and expectations of

those who were handling and dealing in bullion at the time of the Renaissance. While the name of the sunken ship, which once carried them, has yet to be conclusively determined, 153 of the tumbaga bars were conserved and analyzed by Douglas R. Armstrong (Tumbaga Silver for Charles V of the Holy Roman Empire, Palm Bay, F., 1993). The term tumbaga designates a varying mixture (not, properly-speaking, an "alloy") of gold/silver with a relatively high proportion of copper as well as other elements present. Armstrong catalogued the bars in terms of their actual weights, the original markings discernable upon them, and any other observable features. Some showed traces of the melted American aboriginal figurines from which the bars (*lingotes*, in Spanish) were cast.

Many of the bars were subjected to modern analytical tests which revealed that the old Spanish assays, as shown by the surviving punch-

marks applied by the foundry's workmen, were in general surprisingly accurate in terms of the silver fineness (although they did not identify the presence or proportion of gold in the mixtures). The original assaying was accomplished by chiseling off a small corner (a "bite"; in Spanish, *bocado*) of each bar and then submitting it to a cupellation process. The theoretical purity (in Spanish, *ley*) was shown by stamping onto the bar a numeral indicating the parts per 2400 of silver content. The numbering system was that of the Western tradition—the Medieval Spanish version of the familiar Roman numerals (e.g., whereas "IU" or "IV" or "Y" was used instead of "M" to write "1000" and the "D" for "500" is of a cursive form, "L" equals "50"; "X" equals 10, etc.). Most of the bars averaged around 50% pure and weighed five to 10 lbs. The bars also bear impressions of the monarch's official tax collector. These were imparted by circular, coin-like dies

inscribed CAROLVS IMPERATOR.

A number of the bars carried a mark of a capital "B" next to a "V" with a superscript "o". This punch has been attributed to Bernardino Vasquez de Tapia, who is known to have been in the employ of none other than Hernan Cortes, the conqueror of the Aztec empire. The markings of other tesoreros or ensayadores are as yet unattributed. The four bars are fascinating objects, which will be superb additions to future exhibitions. The avoirdupois weight, silver fineness expressed in parts per 2400 (*ley*) and assayers' marks of the four bars are given below.

—11.39 lbs., 1500, lo/N; below, DGBCA with a macron above the CA

—12.29 lbs., 1310, mark illegible (a fragment of per mineralized fabric adheres to the lower surface).

—15.70 lbs., 1500, lo/N; below, DGBCA with a macron above the CA (a small, thin sheet of silver is embedded on the top).

—23.08 lbs., 1540, Bo/V ○

DR. THOMAS S. NOONAN 1938-2001

BY ROBERT LEONARD

Thomas S. Noonan, professor of Russian History at the University of Minnesota, died June 15, 2001 at the age of 63. A Fellow of the Society since 1987, he was a specialist in an area of numismatics so obscure that no one in the West had ever studied it before: hoards of dirhams found in Russia. From exhaustive studies of the dates, mints and issuers of these coins, over time he was able to reach important historical conclusions, such as changes in the route of the Silk Road and what brought the Vikings to Russia early in the 9th century.

Dr. Noonan was the author of many numismatic papers, six of which were collected by Variorum in 1998 as *The Islamic World, Russia and the Vikings, 750-900: The Numismatic Evidence*. Among these is "A Ninth-Century Dirham Hoard from Devista in Southern Russia," *ANS Museum Notes* 27, 1982. At the 125th Anniversary Celebration of the Society, September 10, 1983, he presented an important paper, "Dirham Hoards in Western Eurasia in the Ninth Century," summarizing his research up to that point. He also studied the supposed coinage of the Khazars.

In 1983 Dr. Noonan was the first Kraay Visiting Scholar at the Heberden Coin Room, Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, and the following year he was awarded a royal medal by the Swedish Numismatic Society. He was also a Fellow of the Royal Numismatic Society. On May 9, 2000, he was seen on a Nova television program, "The Vikings," in which he characterized the Vikings as "almost Mafioso types" who forced their way into markets and developed a trade monopoly through Kiev, primarily so they could become rich and powerful and rule over that area. But without this "vital force," he said, there would have never been a Rus state.

GEOFFREY H. NORTH

1909-2002

B Y F R A N C I S C A M P B E L L

On January 22, Geoffrey H. North, who served as Librarian of the American Numismatic Society from 1966 until 1975, passed away in South Orleans, MA, having never fully recovered from an operation, performed last September, to remove an aneurysm from his left leg.

Geoff North began his employment at the American Numismatic Society in 1952. A graduate of McGill University, where he obtained his Bachelor of Science and Library Science degrees, he had previously been employed at the Brooklyn Public Library. As the Assistant Librarian under Richard P. Breaden, Geoff had primary responsibility for the cataloging of monographs, periodical content, offprints and auction catalogs. He was also responsible for most of the technical services processing associated with library work. He joined the staff just as the Library was entering its greatest period of expansion. Together with Breaden, Geoff undertook a program of reorganization and upgrading that did much to render the library the great resource it is today. The Society's first Graduate Seminar in Numismatics had been held in the months immediately preceding Geoff's employment. Consequently, there was a new emphasis placed upon acquiring reference materials that would support graduate-level research and on the systematic cataloging of specialized materials. Geoff carried out the latter masterfully. During the years 1953-1955, the present library reading rooms and office areas were constructed, necessitating the relocation of most of the library collection into the new quarters. In this same period, the present pamphlet file arrangement was established and Geoff catalogued thousands of offprints and pamphlets that were then placed in labeled folders and arranged alphabetically by author for ease of access. He also had major responsibility for an intensive binding program begun in 1956 and continued in subsequent years.

When the library staff assumed editorship of "Numismatic Literature" in 1957, Geoff shared responsibility for preparing abstracts and did considerable editing and re-writing of abstracts contributed by others until "NL" was placed under an International Editor in 1967. He also helped prepare the card-copy used in the 6-volume set of the Society's Dictionary and Auction catalogues, published by G. K. Hall of Boston, Mass., in 1962. The first (1967) and second (1973) Supplements to this

work were under his full supervision.

In 1966, Geoff became the Society's Librarian and hired the present Librarian as his assistant. In the Society's "Annual Report" for 1967, Geoff referred to a "generous donation" to the library made by Mr. H.W. Bass, Jr. of Dallas, Texas. The donation was used to fund the binding of 33 manuscript volumes of the Edgar H. Adams "Notebooks."

In the years that followed, Geoff would have many more opportunities to thank Mr. Bass, who had high regard for him and the Library. Bass became a member of the Library Committee in 1968, later joining the Society's Council and eventually becoming President of the Society. In the "Annual Report" for 1971, Geoff acknowledged Mr. Bass for establishing the "Bass Library Fund," which has since grown to become the Library's major endowed fund.

Those who made Geoffrey North's acquaintance came to respect him as a professional and a person. During his tenure as Librarian the numismatic libraries of P. K. Anderson, H. A. Dietz, F. Dorsey Stephens, and David G. Briggs were added to the Society's Library. He maintained an excellent rapport with Council, staff, and visitors, especially the successive groups of Seminar Students, many of who still ask for him when they return to the Society. Geoff retired from his office as Librarian in 1975 after twenty-two years of faithful service to the Society. Soon after, he and his charming wife Eileen moved to South Orleans, MA, on Cape Cod. Eileen passed away in 1999. I had the opportunity to visit them both on many occasions since Geoff's retirement and we all remained very close friends until his passing.

Born in Kimpton, Hertfordshire, UK in 1909, Geoff received his elementary and secondary education at local schools. In 1928, he emigrated to Canada where, during World War II, he served in the Royal Canadian Air Force as an aircrew member. While living in Canada, he met his future wife, Eileen. He and Eileen moved to the United States in 1952. Geoff's interests were wide-ranging. He was well versed in English literature, especially Shakespeare, and had a sound knowledge of military history. He was an accomplished organist, played the banjo, and was quite skilled at wood-working and leather crafts. Through his collecting interests, he also came to know much about rare books and antique clocks. He was in every way a gentleman and those who knew him will miss him dearly.

Greek Acquisitions

BY PETER VAN ALFEN

Toward the end of this last year, the Greek department received two major gifts that have substantially augmented the ANS's holdings in early Asia Minor issues. Arnold-Peter Weiss gave a large collection of early Lycian staters (and a Locris Opuntii stater), which joins an equally large and important gift of early Lycian staters given by Jonathan Rosen. With these Lycian coins added to the handful of examples already in the collection, the ANS can now boast of

having one of the largest collections of this type in the world, covering the entire range of the series. The Rosen gift also had a number of Alexander III drachms, many of which, including some from the "Colophon" mint, have not been published. These will join the already significant numbers of drachms in the collection, particularly those that formed the basis of Margaret Thompson's unfinished volume on the "Colophon" mint. Most recently, Arthur Houghton presented the department with a set of

eight Alexander-type tetradrachms from an important third century hoard. This unusual set includes three hybrid types: Alexander with Amon horn on the obverse, Zeus Aetophoros reverse, and three imitations with a very rare and strange feature, silver, rivet-like plugs fillings holes drilled through the coins. Houghton currently is preparing an article on this feature, and on the other coins from the hoard. ○



Silver Stater, Locri
Opuntii, early 4th BC.



Plugged imitation Alexander
Tetradrachma.



Silver Stater, Lycia, 5th BC.

Ya'akov Meshorer. *A Treasury of Jewish Coins*. New York/Jerusalem: Amphora

Books/Yad Ben-Zvi Press, 2001. 356 pp., b/w illus., 80 b/w plates. Hb.

ISBN 0-9654029-1-6/ISBN 965-217-189-1.

The title of this new volume by Y. Meshorer (hereafter M.) is very aptly named, for one can only marvel at the shining wealth of knowledge, acquired over a lifetime of fascination with and study of Jewish and related coinage, which it contains. *A Treasury of Jewish Coins* (hereafter TJC) is essentially an updated version of M.'s monumental, *Ancient Jewish Coins* (hereafter AJC), published in 1982. Over the course of almost two decades since the appearance of AJC, there have been many notable advances in the understanding and interpretation of Jewish coinage, in many cases thanks to the work of archaeologists at sites throughout the Holy Land.

TJC maintains the same organization as AJC, with the major sections devoted to the small YHD issues of the Persian and Ptolemaic periods (pp. 1-21), the coinages of the Hasmonean (pp. 23-59) and Herodian (pp. 61-114) dynasties and the coins of the Jewish War (pp. 115-134) and the Bar Kokhba War (pp. 135-165). Shorter supplemental sections are incorporated at the end of the book to cover important coinages related to ancient Jewish coinage, but not actually issued by Jewish authorities. These include the coins produced by the Roman procurators of Judaea, issues of the Roman administration under Agrippa II, the coinage of Herod of Chalcis and Aristobulus of Lesser Armenia, the minimas of Caesarea and the Judaea Capta issues of Caesarea. In addition to the 80 plates, many with enlargements of the smaller pieces, used to illustrate the Jewish coins described in the text

and catalog (pp. 197-267) numerous illustrations are provided throughout the book as comparanda. The section on the YHD coins is remarkable for the number of new and unusual types added to the series. Only 17 types were known at the time of AJC, but now M. presents us with a total of 35 different types, representing an impressive increase in knowledge over less than two decades. Besides the famous British Museum coin (no. 1), thought to depict the Jewish God in anthropomorphic form (a view strongly supported by M. on pp. 1-5), the stars of this chapter have to be the pair of obols (nos. 18-19) with eagle reverses that have obverses stamped with symbols to represent the relationship between Yahweh and his people. On one of these coins (no. 19) a shofar, an instrument for bringing prayer to God's attention, is depicted, while on the other (no. 18) an ear, apparently that of God, is the main type. M. pays great attention to the iconography of the whole YHD series and elucidates many of the more obscure types with Biblical, Rabbinical and other ancient primary sources. Indeed, one of the general strengths of the book is the space given in each chapter to the discussion of iconography, some of which may be new to those unfamiliar with Jewish custom and ritual.

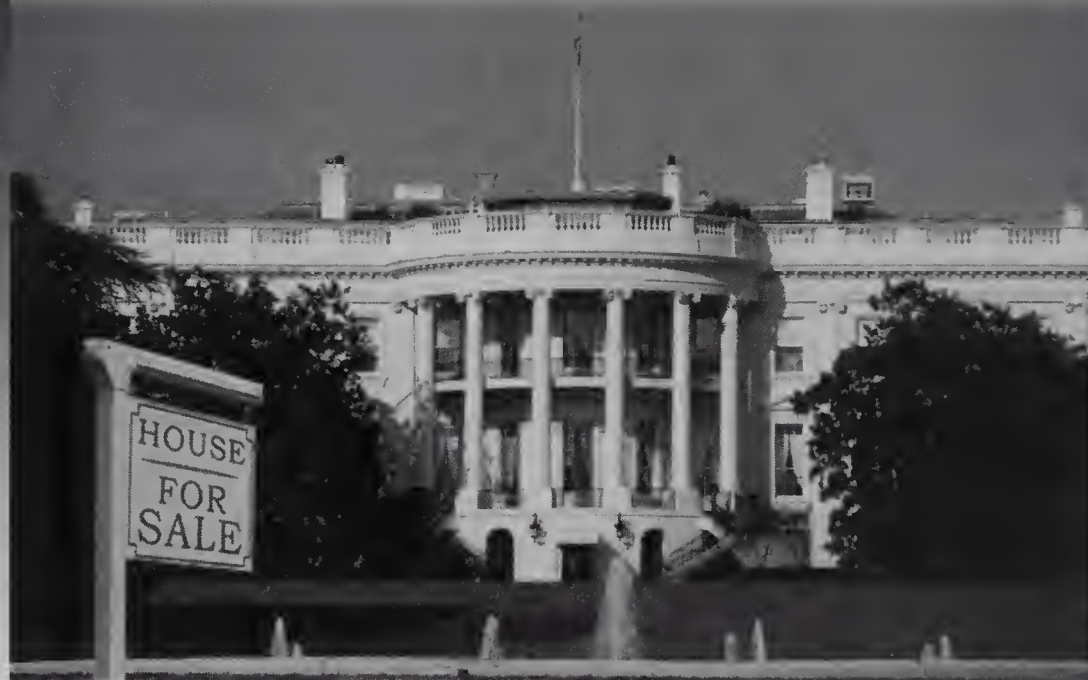
The Hasmonean chapter sees a major revision of M.'s views from those published in AJC. Thanks to new evidence provided by a hoard from the Galilee and finds from the excavations on Mt. Gerizim, the bronze coinage in the name of Yehohanan, which M. attributed to the Hasmonean High Priest, John Hyrcanus II, are now attributed to John Hyrcanus I (pp. 25-26). This development, however, causes a problem in that now Hyrcanus II has no coins that can be easily attributed

to him. M.'s solution to this difficulty is to suggest that the Hebrew name of Hyrcanus II was not Yehohanan, but perhaps Yehonatan and that the cornucopiae/wreath coins bearing this name should actually be attributed to him rather than his father Alexander Jannaeus (pp. 26-27).

The discussion of Hasmonean iconography is basically the same as what appeared in AJC. M. continues to express the doubt that the type of wreath depicted on the cornucopiae/wreath bronzes (with the exception of those of Mattathias Antigonus) can be properly identified (p. 36). However, judging from the three-leaf arrangement with small berries associated with each set of leaves and the "joining link" at the top, it seems likely that the die engravers have imitated the laurel wreaths, commonly found on the reverses of late Seleucid tetradrachms, and which normally include a "joining link" of varying appearance (e.g. SNG Spaer nos. 1867, 2533, 2658, 2790).

In the commentary on the coins of Mattathias Antigonus, M. makes the interesting argument that the larger size and higher artistic quality of these issues, should be attributed to his need to advertise his legitimacy in the face of Herod's Roman support (pp. 52-53), but the discussion of the audience(s) for Antigonus' royal and priestly titles is somewhat confusing. M. suggests that it is unclear to whom Antigonus was appealing with his various coin legends, but surely the title of "High Priest" must have been aimed at a Jewish audience, and a highly educated one at that, since the inscriptions using this title are all written in paleo-Hebrew, a script generally thought to have been unreadable except by "a small number of learned people (p. 48)." Since only a few Jews could even read the inscrip-

DANIEL M. FRIEDENBERG



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Dwight D. Eisenhower to George W. Bush*

FOREWORD BY HOWARD ZINN



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tion it is doubtful that it would have had any impact on non-Jews who certainly could not read it. On the other hand, the Greek inscription would have been readable and understood by most literate individuals, both Jew and Gentile, in the first century B.C. Perhaps the Greek legend, as on the earlier coins of Alexander Jannaeus, was intended for general consumption, whereas paleo-Hebrew was used to impress the educated religious factions of the Pharisees and Sadducees, with whom Hasmonean kings often needed to build support.

One begins to wonder whether the view that few Jews in the first century B.C./A.D. could read paleo-Hebrew should not be revisited. It is difficult to believe that the paleo-Hebrew script used to express such slogans as "For the Freedom of Zion" and "For the Redemption of Israel" on the coins of the later Jewish War and the Bar Kokhba War were aimed only at the educated elite. How a mobilization of scholars would have helped the war effort in either conflict is hard to imagine. Perhaps more people could read paleo-Hebrew than current research suggests.

The Herodian chapter also covers much of the same ground as AJC, but here M. has refined his views on the dated bronze issues of Herod the Great and the controversial theory that from 19/18 B.C. to A.D. 65/66 Tyrian shekels were produced in Jerusalem in order to facilitate the payment of the Temple tax.

Although M.'s argument that Herod's coins of Year 3 are based on an era counting from this tenure as tetrarch of Samaria in 42 B.C. is eloquent and extremely convincing, the summary treatment of the iconography of the large dated denomination (no. 44) is surprising. The obverse type of this issue is described on p. 64 as "an apex - ceremonial cap of the

Romanaugurs - between two palm branches", without reference to the various conflicting views regarding the identification of the type. M. mentions the old and largely discredited view that the type represents a thymiaterion, but fails to discuss the more recent, and much more credible views that the coins depict either a military helmet (D. Hendin, *Guide to Biblical Coins*, 4th ed. (New York, 2001), pp. 161-162) or a Dioscurus pilos surmounted by a star and resting on a ritual couch (D. Jacobsen, "A New Interpretation of the Reverse of Herod's Largest Coin," *ANSMN* 31 (1986), pp. 150-165). The normal Roman apex, which can be clearly recognized on the famous elephant denarii of Julius Caesar (Cr. 443), is not surmounted by a star as on the issues of Herod the Great, but rather by a spike and a disk.

There is also some confusion about the round shield depicted on Herod's half denomination. It can hardly represent Herod's "esteem for the Roman army," since the shield, with its crescent shaped edge design, is of distinctly Macedonian type. M. uses a Roman Republican denarius (Crawford no. 369) for comparison with the Herodian issue. Unfortunately he does not take into account the fact that the Roman coin was struck by a member of the Metellus family in commemoration of the Macedonian victory of Q. Caecilius Metellus Macedonicus in 148 B.C. (Crawford, vol. 2, p. 288). By the late first century B.C. the standard shield type of the Roman legionary was the oblong or rectangular scutum. M.'s theory that Herod struck Tyrian tetradrachms in Jerusalem remains convincing on technical grounds and the evidence provided by Cassius Dio concerning the severe punishment meted out to Tyre by Augustus in 20 B.C.

However, the argument that Josephus' use of the Greek terminology for "coined money" to describe the wealth bequeathed by Herod to various cities, allies and relatives to be considered a translation of the Hebrew "kesef teban," that is, Tyrian shekels, seems hard to believe. The term "coined money" appears elsewhere in Greek literature, with no Tyrian connotations. Besides, there can be little doubt that Herod's will was written in Greek, rather than Hebrew, otherwise it would have done him little good to make Augustus its executor. There is no evidence that Augustus could read Hebrew.

A number of exciting new discoveries are included in the Herodian chapter, such as the coin of Agrippa I bearing a portrait of Caligula's wife, Caesonia, and the enthroned image of Drusilla (no. 119) and a coin with the portraits of Agrippa I and his wife, Cypros (no. 118). An issue with the youthful portrait of Agrippa II (no. 123) has also now been reattributed to the reign of Agrippa I. New finds show that 4 different bronze denominations were struck for each of the five years in which Herod Antipas issued coins at Tiberias (p. 84).

The sections dealing with the Jewish War and the Bar Kokhba War are especially detailed in their discussion of the iconography of the various Temple utensils and religious symbols (particularly those related to Sukkot) that appear on the coins. The use of rabbinical sources, which may not be easily available to many numismatists, is particularly helpful in elucidating the types. In some cases these sources also assist in the identification of important figures, such as Eleazar the Priest, who is named on the coins issued in the first year of the Bar Kokhba War (p. 142-143).

Special attention is paid to coin finds and hoards from the two Wars in an attempt to understand the historical events. A list of major silver hoards from the Jewish War are included on p. 133. The Bar Kokhba find spots show that although the aim of the Jewish rebels was to reclaim Jerusalem, the Holy City remained out of their reach. Likewise, the absence of coin finds in the north and the coastal cities shows that these regions were also outside the control of Bar Kokhba's men.

TJC is a worthy successor to AJC, bringing together in one place the sum of our current knowledge concerning Jewish numismatics. Through great love and concern for his subject, Y. Meshorer has amassed a great store of wealth in this Treasury. The present reviewer, no doubt along with many others, is grateful that he takes such obvious delight in sharing his treasure with all of those who care to read his text and enjoy the images in the plates.

-By *Oliver D. Hoover*

Hans-Christoph Noeske. *Die Münzen der Ptolemäer*. Frankfurt am Main: Historisches Museum, 2000. 189 pp., 73 b/w plates. Pb. ISBN 3-89282-038-4.

This unassuming little (17cm x 21cm) paperback volume, produced by the Historisches Museum Frankfurt am Main (hereafter HMF), is packed from start to finish with informative text and high quality photographs of Ptolemaic coins. Although the title might lead the reader to imagine that the book is a general study of the coinage issued by the Ptolemaic dynasty of Egypt (323-30 B.C.), it is in fact a full catalog of the Ptolemaic coin collection formed by the well-known German zoologist and explorer, Eduard Rüppell, in the 19th century, and which now resides in the HMF.

The text is comprised of three brief

essays (pp. 8-30) designed to introduce the reader to the collection described in the catalog (pp. 32-181) that forms the bulk of the book. The first essay (pp. 8-11), entitled "Die Rüppell-Medaille und Goethe," and written by Wolfgang Klausewitz, presents an overview of Rüppell's life and his major expeditions to Northeast Africa, Ethiopia, and Arabia (1822-27 and 1830-1833) as well as his relationship with J.W. von Goethe, who was also a collector of coins and medals. Goethe was a motivating force behind the production of a medal in gold, silver and bronze to commemorate Rüppell's achievements.

The second essay (pp. 12-19), by Klaus Bringmann, deals with the subject of "Die Ptolemäer. Eine makedonische Dynastie in Ägypten," and gives a brief history of the Ptolemies from the appointment of Ptolemy I Soter as satrap of Egypt on June 13, 323 B.C. to the suicide of Cleopatra VII on August 1, 30 B.C. Along with the political history, the author also touches on the economic and cultural factors that affected the development of the Ptolemaic kingdom. A photograph of two beautiful gold seals depicting Ptolemy VI as both a diademed Macedonian king and as a crowned Egyptian pharaoh (p. 17) eloquently illustrates the two sides of Ptolemaic kingship and culture.

Hans-Christoph Noeske (hereafter N.), the site numismatist for the Elephantine excavations in Upper Egypt, provides the final essay (pp. 20-25), "Bemerkungen zur ptolemäischen Geldgeschichte," to introduce the reader to developments in the Ptolemaic monetary system, which, unlike most of the Hellenistic superpowers changed from the Attic tetradrachm standard (c. 17.20g) popularized by Alexander the Great to a lower so-called Ptolemaic standard, with a tetradrachm weighing about

14.25g. The author shows that the weight reduction took place in two increments of 9% during the early reign of Ptolemy I. The first reduction occurred around 310 when Ptolemy adopted a "reduced Attic standard" of 15.70g for his Alexander in elephant head/address/Athena Promachos type tetradrachms and the second around 305, when he claimed the royal title and placed his own portrait and the dynastic eagle emblem on the coinage. This development is graphically illustrated in a table on pp. 22-23. The author also discusses the lack of natural silver sources in Egypt, which contributed to the widespread use of bronze coinage within the borders of the country and the decline of precious metal content in the silver coinage beginning in the late second century B.C.

The catalog (pp. 32-181) follows the standard Sylloge format, with textual descriptions on the left page with photographs of the coins described on the facing page. Also in keeping with the Sylloge style are the enlarged illustrations of the various monograms (p. 32) that appear on coins in the collection keyed to numbers used in the text. The descriptions are thorough and include the details of weight, diameter, die axis and HMF inventory numbers as well as references to both Svoronos and SNG Cop. Egypt. A useful concordance of the inventory numbers with the catalog and reference numbers, as well as the monogram numbers with the inventory numbers (pp. 182-189) complements the catalog.

It is difficult to say enough about the superb black-and-white plates used to illustrate the coins. The photography is excellent throughout and the lighting has been used to fullest effect in order to pull the details of type and legend out of the more heavily worn bronzes.

While most of the material illustrat-

ed and described in the catalog is not particularly rare, there are a few surprises, such as no. 189, a previously unpublished tetradrachm of the 14th year of Ptolemy V from Kition and no. 298, a large Cypriote bronze since his article is not given in the bibliography.

Despite these several oversights, *Die Münzen der Ptolemäer* is a quality production, worthy of a place in any Ptolemaic numismatic library. It is also an excellent model for the publication of smaller historic collections in museum cabinets. We hope to see further volumes of this type and caliber in future.

-By Oliver D. Hoover

Jean-Philippe Fontanille and Sheldon Lee Gosline. *The Coins of Pontius Pilate*, Marco Polo Monographs 4. Warren Center, PA: Shangri-La Publications, 2001. 176 pp., 4 color plates, b/w illus. throughout. ISSN 1527-2265. Hb.: \$34.50, Pb. \$26.00.

Jean-Philippe Fontanille and Sheldon Lee Gosline (hereafter F. and G.) should be commended for their attempt to bring together in one place the current knowledge concerning the coins of the most (in)famous of the governors of Roman Judaea. They should also be recognized for their obvious passion for their subject, although at times the raw enthusiasm seems to lead the authors astray of some of the more likely historical and numismatic conclusions to be drawn from their study.

The book is essentially divided into an historical and a numismatic section. The first 38 pages are devoted to providing an historical overview of Judaea under direct Roman rule and to detailing the evidence for Pontius Pilate, the man. The final 42 pages of the main text provide a study of the three bronze coin types issued by Pilate in years 16, 17 and 18 (A.D. 29, 30 and 31, respectively) of

Tiberius' reign, including a very thorough study of type and inscriptional variants. The variant catalogs (pp. 44-46, 50-55, 58-68) are some of the most useful features of the book. In addition to the main text, *The Coins of Pontius Pilate* also includes three appendices covering such subjects as the current market for Pilate's coins, their possible appearance on the Shroud of Turin, and a classification table with a concordance to Y. Meshorer's *Ancient Jewish Coins* and D. Hendin's *Guide to Biblical Coins*.

High quality black-and-white digital images of the coins and enlargements of their various features are liberally sprinkled throughout the book in order to aid the reader in understanding the complexities of the series. The four pages of plates are a special treat because, unlike in most numismatic studies, they are presented in full color. The green and tan patinas are quite beautiful, despite the crudeness of the actual coin designs.

It should be pointed out that *The Coins of Pontius Pilate* is really two books in one, because immediately following the English language text (pp. 1-108) is a French version (pp. 109-176). Unfortunately, the French and English texts are not identical translations of one another. Some of the historical detail present in the English version, which suffers from typographical and grammatical errors, has been dropped out of the French.

The historical section is generally well presented, although in spots it might have benefited from deeper research than a cursory reading of the entries in the *Catholic Encyclopedia*. In the first chapter F. and G. provide the background for the fall of the Herodian dynasty and the establishment of Judaea as a Roman province in A.D. 6. The authors make a good point of explaining that although it is common modern practice to describe

all of the Roman governors of the region as the "Procurators of Judaea," Pontius Pilate as well as all the other governors before A.D. 44 was an equestrian prefect rather than a procurator.

A brief chapter detailing the types of coins that circulated in Judaea at the time of Pontius Pilate, as well as a description of changes in Jewish money, follows this historical overview.

The final chapter of the historical section (pp. 17-33), which deals specifically with the person of Pontius Pilate and his rule in Judaea, is one of the most interesting in the whole book. F. and G. provide a biography based not only on the standard ancient accounts of Josephus, Philo Judaeus and the four Gospels, but they also draw on some of the more obscure apocryphal sources, such as the *Life of Jesus in Arabic* and *The Doctrine of the Apostle Addai*. Anyone with an interest in biblical and particularly early Christian history would enjoy reading this chapter.

A discussion of the old debate concerning the new Roman religious types that Pilate employed for his bronze prutot (pp. 34-38) introduces the numismatic section. Instead of adhering to the established custom of using types clearly inoffensive to Jewish Law, he issued coins depicting the simpulum (a ladle for pouring wine on sacrificial animals) and the lituus (augur's wand). The question that naturally arises from this break with tradition has been whether Pontius Pilate did so in an attempt to provoke his Jewish subjects, or out of ignorance that such symbols might cause upset. Following the work of H. Bond, F. and G. come to the reasonable conclusion that if Pilate, who had a reputation for offending the Jews in the ancient sources, had really wanted to stir up trouble he could

have done a much better job by placing the head of the emperor on his coinage. One is also tempted to agree with the authors' suggestion that the especially poor rendering of the types on many of the coins would have made them ineffectual agents provocateurs. Concerning the choice of types, F. and G. make the interesting observation that Pilate had his coins struck on one side with a Roman emblem (*lituus* or *simpulum*) and on the other with a neutral "Jewish" symbol (wreath or grain ears). It may be worth adding that what appears to be the purposeful pairing of Roman and Jewish symbols had already occurred on the dated issues of Herod the Great (see O. Hoover, *The Picus* 4 (1995), pp. 8-29).

F. and G. spend the next 29 pages describing the types and inscriptions used on Pilate's coins and cataloging their many variants with photographs. The description of variant types is quite useful although the authors' interpretation of some anomalies tends towards the fanciful. For example, the authors see in an irregularity on an apparently unique specimen of year 16, the "profile" of a child falling into the *simpulum* (p. 46). They also suggest that the *lituus* was probably not offensive to Jews on the grounds that a small *lituus* also appeared on the portrait coins of Nero issued under Herod Agrippa II (A.D. 56-95). F. and G. fail to appreciate that these coins were struck in Neronias (Caesarea Philippi), a predominantly pagan city, in which the strictures of Mosaic Law had little force.

Although the discussion of dates and date variants (pp. 58-63) is extremely thorough there is, however, some unfortunate confusion about the debate concerning the *lituus* issues bearing the date LIZ (year 17) which F. and G. curiously suggest hinges on a misinterpretation of the letters S

and lower case sigma. Instead, the actual argument advanced by some scholars is that the Greek letter Z is really a poorly engraved and retrograde letter sigma. Thus the date should be understood as year 16 (A.D. 29). While the generally poor quality of Pilate's coins and three variants of LIZ in which S replaces Z (var. 2i, 2j and 2l on pp. 60-61), make this argument plausible, the authors are probably correct to recognize LIZ as a perfectly reasonable Greek date representing year 17 (A.D. 30). F. and G. also point out that variants of the date LIH (year 18=A.D. 31) are very rare. They may be even less common than they suggest, for variant 3c with LIN for LIH appears to be a trick of the coin's patina and the horizontal H character of variant 3d may be a more formal letter Z.

A good overview of inscriptional variants is also provided on pp. 64-68 with the reasonable suggestion that a combination of haste, illiteracy, and poor estimation of letter space by the die engravers should be blamed for the large number of misspellings, particularly in the spelling of the title KAICAPOC. The star variant is the *simpulum* issue 1d in which the letter E of Tiberius' name has apparently been replaced by a character closely resembling the *lituus* of Pilate's later issues.

Having described the wide-ranging characteristics of the three main types of Pontius Pilate coins, F. and G. tackle the thorny issue of the rare countermarks that were applied to some of his coins. These countermarks normally depict a palm branch flanked by the Greek letters sigma and pi, which K. Lönnqvist (INJ 12 (1992-93), 56 ff.) has interpreted as an abbreviation of *speira*, the Greek term for a Roman cohort. The authors' theory that the palm branch represents a palm grove in which the

countermarking legionary cohort was stationed is hard to accept since whenever this emblem appears as a countermark on Roman provincial and earlier Hellenistic coins it tends to symbolize victory or general success. It is also difficult to support the alternate suggestion that the palm branch represents a *lulav* used at the Jewish festival of Sukkoth (pp. 73-74) if sigma does indeed represent *speira*. One is hard pressed to imagine why a group of Jewish rebels would describe themselves in Roman military terms. Close inspection of the mysterious CY inscriptional variant (figs. 109 and 118) shows that the letter Y is a misread pi. A die flaw seems to have created the tail of the Y.

The final section (pp. 74-77) of the main text is devoted to the strange anomalies on a single coin (fig. 109), including the letter E of TIBEPIOY replaced by what appears to be a *lituus*, and the mysterious "profile" located above the *simpulum* type. The latter has the appearance of a small man or child with outstretched arms, but it is impossible to be sure what it is since it is immediately bordered on the upper left by a countermark. It is impossible to know how much, if any, of the "profile" was obliterated in the countermarking process. Thus it is also impossible to know whether the "profile" is really an intentional figural representation or the result of some flaw in the die or mint error. Nevertheless, the authors have interpreted the "profile" figure as falling into *simpulum*, a receptacle for holding liquid, and therefore as a possible representation of proto-Christian baptism. The extremely speculative nature of this theory hardly needs to be pointed out. It is highly unlikely that an proto-Christian die-engraver would have tried to draw attention to himself by drastically changing the coin type of one of the most hated prefects of Judaea. It

is even less likely that a proto-Christian would have recognized dipping in a ritual vessel as a form of baptism. Baptism, as promoted by St. John the Baptist, always took place in the Jordan River (Matt. 3:4-5; Mark 1:4-6). St. John was so well known for his harsh wilderness lifestyle that later Christian art depicted him conducting baptism by pouring water with his bare hands or with a shell, a product of nature, never a simpulum or a similar vessel.

No book attempting to give an overview of Pontius Pilate and his coins would be complete without some comment on the much-debated Shroud of Turin. The authors do not disappoint their readers in this area, providing in an appendix 15 pages of

discussion as well as six pages of pertinent bibliography. F. and G. should be applauded for their even-handed and non-partisan approach to the question of the Shroud's authenticity. They give a good general history of the scientific study of the Shroud and then move on to the main question regarding the possible placement of Pontius Pilate prutot over the eyes of the Shroud image. Particularly notable in this discussion is the attention to the archaeological evidence for the placement of coins over the eyes of the deceased as a Jewish custom dating back to the first century A.D. Using digitally enhanced enlargements of the eye areas, taken from the original STURP photographs, F. and G. conclude that two

lituus coins have been placed over the eyes, while they do not rule out the possibility that a simpulum type (turned to the grain ears reverse) may have been placed over the left eye.

Although many of the conclusions presented in *The Coins of Pontius Pilate* should be viewed with skepticism, the raw data on variants and the historical introduction will no doubt make it a popular book among collectors of the series and those interested in biblical history.

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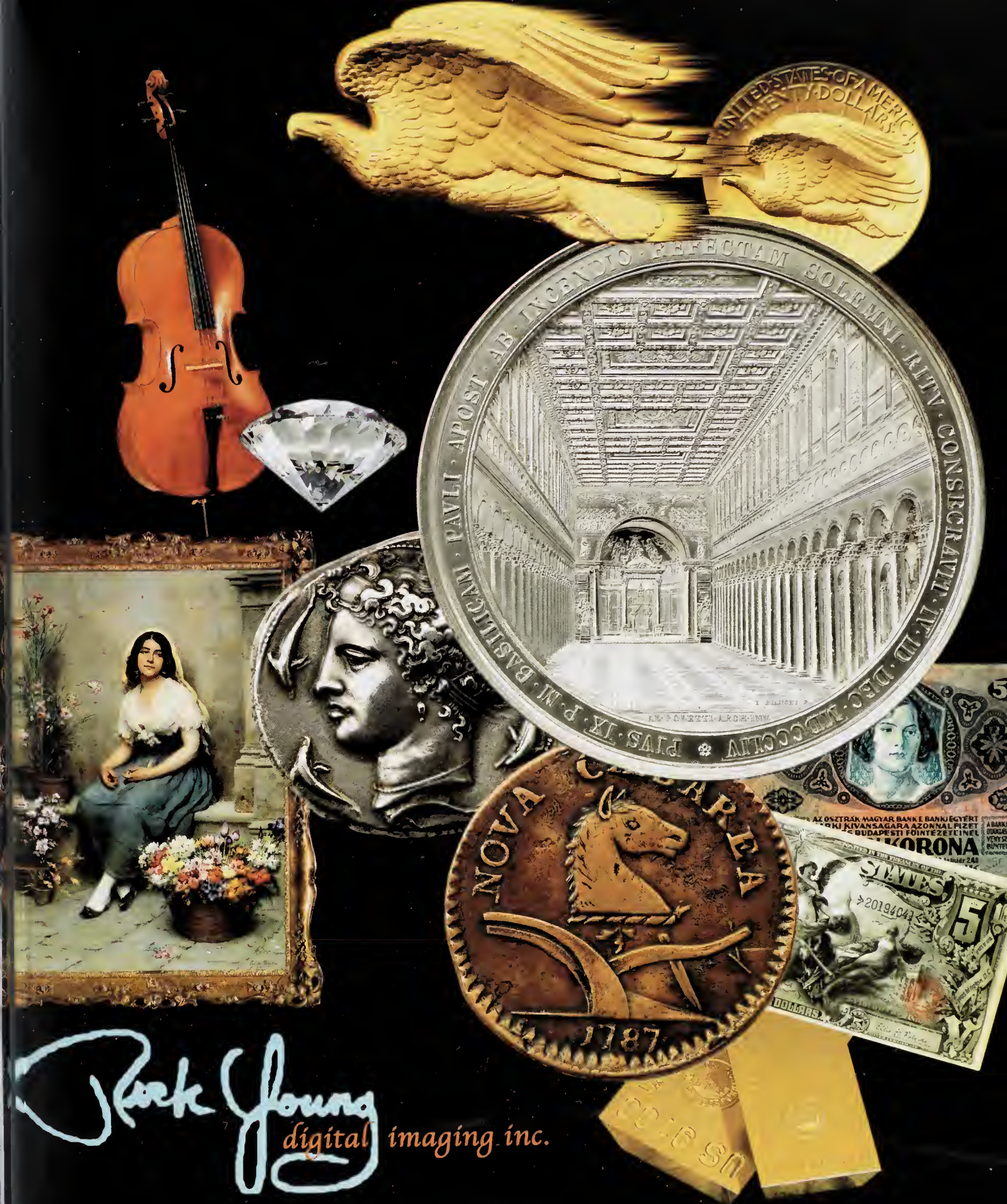
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